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For the New Year.

We'll lift with braver heart
Life's burdens once again,
We'll act a nobler part
Among our fellow men.
Hope's flowers again shall bloom
Along life's dusty ways,
And murmurings and sighs
Shall change to prayer and praise.
Faith shall with clearer vision
Look toward the coming days,
When peace shall o'er division
Reign with benignant rays;
When man to man as brother
Shall lend a helping hand,
And God's blest benediction
Rest on our smiling land!
—*American Rural Home.*

From Lanark, Ill.

This is the former home of the Brethren at Work, and of J. H. Moore and M. M. Eshelman the brethren who worked it. In this the scripture is fulfilled—"They rest from their labor and their works do follow them." The former is in Florida; the latter in Kansas, and it is my privilege to have peaceable residence at Lanark.

I have now been here two weeks, during which time I have met a number of old acquaintances and have formed some new acquaintanceships, all of which has a tendency to make me feel at home. Part of the time the weather has been very cold making it a little disagreeable to a Californian. A change of 60 degrees, from 30 above to 30 below zero is quite perceptible; but wherever I have been they understood the situation and kindly kept the best of fires and beds and so I have been quite comfortable.

The first week I had my home at Bro. W. H. Herrington's. He is our Bliss. Sister H. is a daughter of Eld. D. M. Miller, and is a help meet for our Bliss. Eld. Miller has succeeded in raising an excellent, progressive family.

During my stay at Bro. Harrington's, I visited the homes of Z. L. Livengood, Henry Livengood, Daniel Fike, Jos. Livengood and Henry Meyers, and preached three times in the Bethlehem church—a model house of worship. I was pleased with the situation, especially with the zeal of the brethren and sisters; and I predict for this place a prosperous future. Bro. Z. T. L. holds the fort here and he does it well.

My first sermon at Lanark was on the evening of the last Sunday in 1886. The services here are held in a Baptist church, which the Brethren had rented, and have rented again for another year. Here we had two meetings on the first Sunday of this year. The congregations were good, and, I think, there is a fair prospect for doing a good work here. The Baptists have agreed to unite with us in a Union S. S., which, we hope, will be a success.

On Dec. 30th, evening, we had a business meeting in the church, when some important business was transacted. We decided to have social meeting on Wednesday evening of each week. At our meeting last Sunday evening, we decided to commence our protracted meeting here on next Sunday, immediately following

the week of prayer, in which we are taking a part. The first meeting of the week of prayer was held last night. It was a praise meeting, was held in our rented house, conducted by the writer and our Bliss, but participated in by the following ministers: Gordon and Lee, M. E., Forncrook, Church of God, and Quayl, Congregational. Many of the laity of the different churches, took an active part, and we had a good meeting. Tonight the meeting will be at the Lutheran church; Wednesday evening, at the Congregational; Thursday, Methodist; Friday, Bethel; and on Saturday evening at the German Baptist Brethren church. We expect Eld. S. Z. Sharp to be with us on that occasion.

I have met several of the G. B. brethren, and so far have been treated very kindly by all. I hope this kindness may be kindled into fraternal love, and that, before this year ends, many of them may return to the ancient, true, and only platform of the Brethren—the gospel of Christ as our only law in religion.

I now have my temporary home at Mr. John Rowland's. I have a good room and am well cared for. Since here I have visited the homes of Bro. Jos. Dubbel and Bro. Daniel Lichty, dining at the former place on New Years day, and at the latter last Sunday. At both places I enjoyed myself well, as they are all zealous in the good cause. With Bro. Lichty I was acquainted at Salisbury, Pa., where his parents and his brother Albert still reside. Some of these things I mention to show what means I have for enjoyment, and what cause for thankfulness. As an item of good news I will state that brother A. J. Blough, of Milledgeville, came forward at Bethlehem, last Sunday evening to enjoy a spiritual home with the Brethren.

Correspondents will address me at Lanark, Ill., Box 292.

J. W. BEER.

Jan. 4th, 1887.

Altamont, Cal.

Dec. 28.—Being at present laid aside with a sprained shoulder but having the use of my right arm, I thought I would let you know something of our Sunday school; and, as I am like many of the children at this season of the year, so am I as proud of our new church. I almost had said it was a new school. I told you before our church was dedicated on Sunday, Dec. 12th, so on Sunday Dec. 19th, we met for reorganization of our school. Bro. Dotty was elected superintendent and Bible class teacher; sister Beer, Ass't Supt. and intermediate teacher; sister Perret, teacher of infant class; sister Haas as Secretary, and our Christian Bro., Moss, Treasurer and teacher of a class in the Welsh language, a new feature to us in our school; and Miss Sadie Beer, chorister. May the good Lord bless teacher and the taught is the prayer of your humble servant.

On Dec. 25th, at 11 a. m., we met to celebrate the birth of our risen Redeemer. Bro. Dotty, in charge, he read that beautiful, 2nd, chapter of Luke's Gospel. After making a few remarks he turned the meeting into a social one. Sister Beer took as the ground work of her remarks the joy we feel in receiving a gift from a friend. But oh, nothing compared to the joy of the gift of God in sending us his son Jesus whose birth we this day celebrate. Sister Perret followed with a brief but heartfelt expression that she had been of the world but had no desire to return; but wish to live at peace with all mankind and to press on to the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Bro. Moss wished to press the benefit of a better acquaintance with the word of God.

Bro. Dotty, after reviewing the remarks of the different speakers which was well applied, brought a most enjoyable meeting to a close.

On Sunday 26th, our school was as organized, met at 11 a. m.; Bible class, 9 o'clock. The intermediate class contained 11, infant 10, and Welsh class 4, teachers 4, visitors 3; so you see that gave us a total of 41, which I consider as very good considering that we are scattered from one to 5 miles from our church.

Bro. Dotty closed with a fitting review of the lesson which occupied our minds this morning, and to set the school a searching, he wished all to find a verse in the Bible for next Sabbath where peace was mentioned.

* Now Bro. Editor is not this a good showing for a small country place? But let us not be proud, but work and pray that our number be increased, to the glory of our Divine Master.

Ere I close I would like to say that so far as I know, we did not receive one cent to assist us in building our church, but what the collectors canvassed for. But one thing I do feel sure of, and that is that many prayers were offered in our behalf, and prouder still, that such prayers were answered. And now if there is any brother or sister who has both a large heart and open purse that will send us some church literature as you see we have a good field for distribution—especially bearing on our church doctrine, we shall, as a church and school, feel deeply thankful.

WM. SHANKS.

* Yes, brother.

A Mystery Still.

Some days ago I received letters of inquiry from brethren asking an immediate answer, but on account of the sickness and death, Jan. 3rd, of my father-in-law, these brethren will overlook my seeming neglect.

"Now there has always been something mysterious to me about you, the 'Bible-alone' element at Andrews. Wondered why you had not ere this time called some one to your assistance and organized a separate

congregation on the Gospel-alone platform? Why not do it now? I have wondered, knowing the situation as you do, whether you thought there was gain in delay, or whether you thought if you organized, you would be driven to build a meeting house as most every congregation in the Brotherhood has had to do. Or whether you had been so long turned out in the cold that you had lost all interest in the cause of Christ. This letter I could not persuade myself to believe." * * *

It is much easier to ask questions than to answer them. In asking these questions, the desire, no doubt, is to find out the "mystery" about the Bible-alone brethren at Andrews. I do not know that I can tell why the progressive brethren have not organized a church here. It is difficult, sometimes, for one to tell his own mind or a reason for his acts—it is much more difficult to tell the mind of a community of brethren or to give a reason for their acts. It is well known to all the brethren that the church here has suffered great wrongs from too much government, local, as well as annual meeting.

It is a fact, I think, that there are not many great men nor many wise men among us. And it is a fact too that there are not many who are willing to "for-sake all" and follow Christ. There are too many of us who are willing to be "carried" to heaven "on flowery beds of ease," and too few of us who are willing to spend and be spent in doing the work of the Master.

The Gospel-alone brethren saw an effort put forth some years ago to organize a progressive church here. It did not succeed. Whether the mystery was in the brethren here, or in the organizer or in both, the writer does not know.

Being turned out in the cold so often, has no doubt caused many to become lukewarm in the cause of Christ. It is no mystery—this lukewarm condition of the brethren, to those who know their ups and downs. The writer does not see a door open to the Brethren here at this time.

S. M. MINNICH.

Andrews, Ind.

Terra Alta, W. Va.

Jan. 1.—A notice appeared in the EVANGELIST a short time ago, stating that I was to hold a protracted meeting in Uniontown, Pa., which was a mistake. It was in the Grove Church, about four miles from Uniontown. The meeting is now one of the things of the past. It closed on Wednesday evening, Dec. 29th. As an immediate result, three were added to the church, one reclaimed, and two by relation from the German Baptist church. The meeting was not what it might have been under more favorable circumstances. The weather was inclement, and the roads in general in a very bad condition. Our congregations were small, but very attentive. Some of the members were very

prompt and attentive, while a few were inclined to offer the state of the weather as an excuse sufficient, for only an occasional appearance at church.

J. D. Gans is the elder in charge of the church. To him and his family and Bro. Joseph Moser and family, I am indebted for the care they took of me, as I made my home with them during my stay at the Grove church. I, however, had the pleasure of visiting nearly all the members during the meeting. Kindness and Christian hospitality were manifest among all, for which I hereby return my thanks, as also for their substantial favors, and hope the good Lord will bless all of them, keeping them faithful in his cause, and that before long a brighter day will dawn upon our common cause.

S. W. WILT.

Dowagiac, Mich.

Dec. 26.—To my dear brethren and sisters everywhere and especially to our brother editor. I will say with reference to his editorial, or more particularly that part in which he said that the church had not said what Master he should serve. I am not the church, but claim to be one of its members, and he should serve his Lord and Master, Christ. I think that every brother and sister will hold up both hands and say Amen, and by so doing you will serve me. May his spirit control your reason, and in short, your whole being and your pen. Keep your pen dipped in the love of God, so that your breathings may come out through the EVANGELIST fresh from the throne of God. I will say that if you do not serve me while you are serving Christ, there is something wrong with me. Cry aloud and spare not the sinner. If it should be me, who is in error, open rebuke is better than secret love. I for one will say that if my writings do not have the right kind of a ring to suit you, and for the glory of God, throw them into the wast basket.

Furthermore brethren let us work for the cause of the paper without compensation, without deducting any thing from the subscription above the actual expense of remittance and so to help our brothers to send the paper to some poor that cannot pay for it themselves. Let us work with all our might, for the night cometh wherein no man can work.

The church here is still alive, and thank God, cannot die as long as we are obedient to his will. We expect to hold a series of meetings in the near future. Pleasant Valley church of the brethren, Cass Co., Mich.

WALTER CLARK.

Dec. 26th, 1886.

Our meetings of over two weeks continuance closed on Sunday evening, Dec. 9th, with a fair congregation and excellent feeling. It did not seem to be our time to have a large ingathering. There was, however, one gem added to our number, Sister Lennie Ginter was baptized, surrounded by an ice-bound coast, but with strong faith and a warm heart, she goes on her way rejoicing. We all feel good. The meeting was a success at Fair Haven.

P. J. BROWN.